

✠ CONFESSIO AND ABSOLUTIO ✠

Greeting

P The Lord be with you. **C** And also with you.

Hymn of Invocation “Blessed Jesus, at Your Word” #904 (G)

Invocation, Confessio of Sins and Absolutio Page 203

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

We Speak To God:

Introit *Psalm 31:1,3,5; antiphon: Revelation 7:14b*



P These are the ones coming out of the great tribu- | lation.*
They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood | of the Lamb.

C In you, O LORD, do I take refuge; let me never be | put to shame; *
in your righteousness de- | liver me.

P For you are my rock and my | fortress; *
and for your name’s sake you lead me and | guide me.

C Into your hand I commit my | spirit; *
you have redeemed me, O LORD, | faithful God.

All Glory be to the Father and | to the Son *
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning, *
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

P These are the ones coming out of the great tribu- | lation.*
They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood | of the Lamb.

Kyrie ~ Lord, Have Mercy Page 204

Hymn of Praise ~ Glory To God in the Highest Page 204

Salutation and Response Page 205

Collect of the Day

P Almighty and everlasting God, You knit together Your faithful people of all times and places into one holy communion, the mystical body of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Grant us so to follow Your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that, together with them, we may come to the unspeakable joys You have prepared for those who love You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

God Speaks To Us:

First Reading.....**Revelation 7:9-17** Pew Bible page 1032

[The saints praising the Lamb before His throne]

Gradual *Revelation 7:14b; Psalm 84:5; Hebrew 12:1a, 2a*

P These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation.

C **They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.**

P Blessèd are those whose strength is in you,

C **in whose heart are the highways to Zion.**

P Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,

C **let us [look] to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith.**

Epistle **1 John 3:1-3** Pew Bible page 1022

[The Father's love for us]

Sequence Hymn.....“Alleluia! Let Praises Ring” #822 (E)

Gospel Acclamations Page 206

Holy + Gospel.....**St. Matthew 5:1-12** Pew Bible page 809

[The Beatitudes]

Nicene Creed Page 206

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day“For All The Saints” #677 (FR)

Sermon.....“As He Is” - **1 John 3:1-3**

1. _____ Love
2. _____ Hope
3. _____ Freedom

We Respond To God:

Commemoration of The Faithful Departed

[This rite of commemoration is read at the Baptismal Font. The Paschal Candle is lighted, symbolizing the light of Christ, which unites the faithful of every time and every place.]

P On this All Saints' celebration we remember with thanksgiving those who have gone before us with the sign of faith, for they were created by God to offer Him praise forever, and He gave them new life through His Son in Holy Baptism, and nourished them in the company of His people at His holy table, and in His mercy has received them into His presence so that they may continue in joyful service to Him forever.

Let us pray.

In joyful expectation of the resurrection to life, we remember before You, O Lord, all those relatives, friends, and fellow church members who have gone before us in faith. We offer thanksgiving for that gift of faith and hold fast to the certainty of Your promises. May their memory among us be blessed and may we follow their footsteps of faith to Your eternal presence in the heavenly kingdom. In Jesus' name.

C **Amen.**

[A bell is tolled at the reading of each name of those who have died in the Lord since last All Saints Day.]

Dean M. Sands, Jr.
December 16, 2016

Opal W. Garber
June 23, 2017

Norma Hightower
January 20, 2017

Rev. Dr. Roy L. Southard
July 14, 2017

P Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord.

C To You, O Lord.

P Let us pray.

Gracious Father in Jesus Christ, we remember with thanksgiving before You all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore, and in a greater light, that multitude which no man can number, whose hope was the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are one forevermore. As you have received our brothers and sisters who have gone to their rest in the hope of the resurrection to eternal life, bring us at last with them into the light of Your presence, that in union with all Your saints, we may laud and magnify Your name forever, through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray to the Lord, **C** Lord, have mercy. or **P** Lord, in Your mercy, **C** Hear our prayer.

Offering and Attendance Registration

✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

Please note our Communion Information in the bulletin.

Preface and Sanctus ~ Holy, Holy, Holy..... Page 208

**Prayer of Thanksgiving, Lord’s Prayer, The Words of Our Lord,
and Pax Domini ~ The Peace of the Lord** Page 209

Agnus Dei ~ Lamb of God..... Page 210

Distribution Hymns “Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness” #563 (FR)
“We Sing for All the Unsung Saints” #678 (FR)
“Jerusalem the Golden” #672

Nunc Dimittis ~ Song of Simeon..... Page 211

Post-Communion Collect, Benedicamus and Benediction..... Page 212

Hymn of Departure..... “Splendor and Honor” #950 (FR)

Silent Prayer

Announcements

Sending:

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God!

HOLY COMMUNION - A CLARIFYING WORD



Bethlehem congregation confesses and affirms what the Bible teaches, namely that in this sacred meal Jesus Christ is truly present with His body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine, given for the forgiveness of sins.

Our Church practices Closed Communion^①, the accepted practice of the Church since the Apostolic age. Participation in the Lord's Supper at Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church, where Lutheran teaching and practice are the definitive marks of our identity, is a privilege ordinarily reserved for confirmed members, in good standing, of congregations in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and synods with whom we are in Altar Fellowship (in North America: Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti, Lutheran Church-Canada and American Association of Lutheran Churches). Such individuals have been instructed and through faith confess the teachings of these Synods as the true and correct exposition of Holy Scripture.

The most loving and honest practice, when this instruction has not been received and/or this confession cannot be made, is for an individual not to commune. The intent of this practice is not to offend but to honor and obey the Word of Christ. If an individual would find it meaningful to come forward during the distribution to receive a spoken blessing, the officiant can be signaled to that effect by keeping your hands beneath the communion rail.

Since participation in this Sacrament is based on complete agreement and unity in all doctrine, and since Christian Churches vary widely in their teachings even about the Lord's Supper, **first time visitors desiring to commune are asked to speak to the Pastor prior to participation in and reception of the Blessed Sacrament.**

Lutherans who are inactive (i.e., not currently members in good standing), who have not communed in the last six months or more, and/or guests who are formerly "Missouri Synod" should speak to the Pastor prior to communing also. Scripture teaches that pastors are shepherds and overseers, who have divine authority and "a terrible responsibility" being held "accountable for [the] flock" (Ezekiel 34:10), especially when it comes to distributing the Lord's body and blood. Our thanks to you for honoring the Scriptural teaching and practice.

All communicants are asked to Register by signing the Registration sheet in the Narthex. Please note that in registering you affirm that you have examined yourself (1 Cor. 11:27-28; 2 Cor. 13:5) that you acknowledge, confess, and repent of your sins (which includes the sin of irregular worship), and by God's grace, as the Catechism also teaches, intend to change such sinful behavior in thought, word, and deed and live a godly life in accord with God's Word. If this is not your intent and you commune, you do so untruthfully and will not receive the Lord's Supper to your spiritual benefit, but to your great harm (1 Cor. 11:29).

For those who have not espoused the doctrines of the Lutheran Church (or those Lutherans who are inactive) and wish to receive the body and blood of Jesus as He reveals Himself to us in the Sacrament of Holy Communion, the essentials of teaching, learning, and confessing can be obtained from the Pastoral Ministry at Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church. Inform the Pastor of your desire and he will assist you.

Communicants are ushered forward by row. Please receive the host upon an open palm. The Chalice (or common cup) is available at every table. The Duty Elder will offer the individual cups and is followed by the Pastor who will offer the Chalice. You may direct questions to the Pastor or Duty Elder.

That which we value highly, we administer faithfully!

PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

Prayers for use before and after the reception of the Sacrament may be found on the inside front cover of our Hymnal, *Lutheran Service Book*.

^①**Closed Communion** is the Scriptural and historic practice of limiting participation in the Lord's Supper to those who have been catechized (instructed), formally admitted to the Altar after being examined in the truths of the Christian faith, and who have promised to believe, teach and confess all that the church in which they will commune believes, teaches and confesses.

ALL SAINTS DAY [OBSERVED]

November 5, 2017

OUR MISSION STATEMENT: *Steadfast in the Word, Bethlehem Lutheran Church shares Christ and serves people with friendship in His love in all of God’s world.*

WELCOME TO BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH! We extend a most joyous welcome to all who are worshipping today. We are confident the Lord will reveal Himself to you through this Divine Service so that you may know the joy of His presence in your life. To our guests: If you have any questions about the Christian faith or about Lutheran worship and practice, please ask the Pastor, one of our Elders, or any of our members. God bless you in Christ Jesus!

WORSHIP NOTES: The Chasuble is a Eucharistic Vestment which the Pastor puts on before preparing the Sacramental vessels. It is a visual mark indicating that in the transition from the Service of the Word to the Service of the Sacrament something extraordinary is about to take place. The use of such a vestment is in keeping with both Lutheran tradition and practice; as our Lutheran Confessions state (*Ap XXIV*).

AS WE GATHER: You are not alone—never have been, never will be! In His faithfulness to you, your heavenly Father has promised to never leave you nor forsake you! As you gather in His name on this All Saints’ Sunday, the triune God fills you with His presence through His Word and through the body and blood of Christ in Holy Communion. In a mysterious way, this fellowship you have with God also unites you to all believers of every time and place. That’s what you confess when you say you believe “in the communion of saints.” You are not alone! You are a member of the Body of Christ! You are part of a community that is eternally blessed by Jesus and lives to confess His name before the world!

AS WE COME INTO THE SANCTUARY - let us be sensitive to the needs of those who use the quiet and reverence of the Prelude as a time to prepare their hearts and minds for the Divine Service. **ALSO:** Out of respect for God’s House and courtesy for other worshippers, please turn off all cell phones. Please also encourage one another to show respect to *God, His Word, our fellow-worshippers,* and *our Pastor* by limiting movement during Scripture Readings, Sermon & prayers. Thank you.

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS this Sunday are given to the Glory of God by Paul and Pat Stephenson in celebration of Paul’s birthday on the 3rd!

TODAY’S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON is the account of “The Three Men in the Fiery Furnace”. Just as Jesus was with the three men in the fiery furnace and saved them, so our Savior is with us in His Word and Sacraments, sustaining us when we suffer for His name. Questions for discussion include, “Who appeared in the fiery furnace with the three men? How has God rescued us from the fires of hell?”

NEW SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE “Leviticus: Life in the Blood” -- Holiness. What is it? For some, holiness is our attempt to live up to God’s expectations recorded in His Word. Failure is attributed to human error, while success is ascribed to human accomplishment. Holiness becomes a measure of how well we’re doing in the sight of our holy God. In contrast, Leviticus shows how God goes to great lengths not only in defining true holiness, but also in sharing His holiness with his redeemed and ransomed people.

CIRCUIT 14 RETREAT at Bethlehem this Saturday, November 11th, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Rev. Karim Baidaoui will be speaking. The topic is “Islam in the Light of the Cross”. Registration will start at 9:30 a.m. and the cost is \$20 per person.

PLEASE HAVE DECEMBER NEWSLETTER ITEMS in the church office NEXT Sunday due to the Thanksgiving holiday. The **NOVEMBER** edition of *The Bethlehem Star* newsletter is in your mailbox in the narthex. Make sure you have picked up your copy!

THANK YOU to everyone who helped with our annual LWML Bazaar yesterday!

THANK YOU to all who helped with football parking this season!

NEW PORTALS OF PRAYER devotion booklets for October through December are on the shelf in the narthex. Make sure you have one and pick up an extra copy for a friend!

FROM THE EVANGELISM COMMITTEE: In order to spread the good news of Jesus Christ, please pick up the Gospel of John books in the narthex to distribute to those in our community.

A SCHOLARSHIP FUND has been established for Aaron Jackson’s college expenses. Aaron is attending Concordia University/Seward, NE to prepare for full-time Church Work as a Minister of Music. If you would like to contribute, please indicate on your check and place it in the offering plate. You can also send Aaron an encouraging note at: Concordia University, Aaron Jackson, 800 North Columbia Ave., Seward, NE 68434-1500.

THE ALTAR GUILD is seeking new members. Your commitment could be just one month a year and you can designate which month you would like to serve. If you would like to volunteer, please see Lori Fortner.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD: We are packing boxes for boys and girls for age categories: 2-4, 5-9 or 10-14. A detailed list of needed items will be displayed in the narthex. See Yanneth Harris for more details.

GREETING CARDS: Are you looking for a beautiful card for special occasions? The ladies of the LWML are selling greeting cards in Garber Hall for a 50 cent donation towards MITES.

STEWARDSHIP VIEWPOINT: (St. Matthew 5:7) “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.” This is one of many Bible passages that remind us that we reap what we sow. Likewise, what God puts into us (His own love, mercy, kindness, and generosity) – flows back out of us. For it all starts with His self-giving!

LIFE QUOTES “God calls us all to support widows and orphans, but that certainly does not mean every person is equipped to adopt a child. You can support a child in need without becoming his or her parent. Consider sponsoring a child overseas, going on a short-term mission trip to an orphanage, or financially supporting couples who adopt children through adoption grant-giving organizations. There are many ways to become involved.” *Kim Laube, B.A., Lutheran Family Service, Urbandale, Iowa • www.lutheransforlife.org*

ABOUT THE COVER: Jesus promises to those who are faithful to Him a great reward, the kingdom of heaven. He tells us to live as faithful followers and to extend His kingdom to others. We should not hide the reason for our hope from those whom Jesus loves. We are to remain faithful, living in humbleness and righteousness. No matter the risk or the cost, Jesus is faithful in His promises.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK: Amos 5:18-24; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; St. Matthew 25:1-13.

| OUR STEWARDSHIP LAST WEEK | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------------|----|
| OFFERINGS | | ATTENDANCE | |
| General Offering | \$2528.80 | Sunday School | 37 |
| [Needed per week: | \$2,668.00] | Divine Service | 72 |
| Building Fund | \$.00 | Communion | 67 |
| [Needed per week: | \$350.00] | Midweek (11/01) | 34 |
| Operation Christmas Child | \$262.00 | | |

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY THIS WEEK

| | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|---|
| Sunday (11/05) | 9:00 AM | All Saints' Day [Observed] |
| | 10:15 AM | Sunday School & Bible Classes |
| | Acolyte/Crucifer: | Divine Service (Setting 4) / Holy Communion |
| | Pianist: | Jessica Bowden |
| | Altar Guild: | Sylvia Frenzel |
| | Duty Elder: | Sandy Smith & Natalie Byrd |
| | After Church: | Devin Jackson |
| | | Evangelism Meeting |
| Wednesday (11/08) | 5:15 PM | Choir Practice |
| | 6:00 PM | Potluck Meal |
| | 7:00 PM | Bible Classes |
| Saturday (11/11) | 10:00 AM-2:PM | Circuit 14 Retreat at Bethlehem |
| Sunday (11/12) | | Pentecost 23 [Proper 27] |
| | 9:00 AM | Sunday School & Bible Classes |
| | 10:15 AM | Divine Service (Setting 1) |
| | Acolyte: | Christopher Harris |
| | Pianist: | Sylvia Frenzel |
| | Altar Guild: | Sandy Smith & Natalie Byrd |
| | Duty Elder: | Devin Jackson |
| | After Church: | LWML Meeting / Newsletter Items Due |

IN THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:

National Leadership and Military: including members Kyle Lawson and Kyle Shepherd, as well as Robert Garcia [Juanita's son], and Jeremy Stafford [Marcy Hogan's nephew]

Health needs - Members: George Nelson, Marjorie Smith (10/22); **Friends: Sharon Bigott** (11/05), [JoAnn Tugwell's nephew's wife], Carlie Hutton (10/29) [Hutton's daughter in law]

Homebound - Members: Dorothy Jackson, Martha Kaudelka, Ardelle Samford, Johnnie Weaver ... **Friends:** Benjamin Garcia

Comfort – Family of Gladys Pfeffer

Celebrating this week: Birthdays: Danny Howard, Chaplain Ristvedt, Lela Sands **Baptismal Birthdays:** Noah Davidson, W. L. Elmore

All who commune

NOTE: New prayers requests are in **BOLD**. Prayers submitted will stay on the prayer list for two weeks unless updated. Please inform the Pastor and the Church Office regarding the status of submitted prayers so we may be timely and up-to-date in petitions to our gracious God.

TO ADD PETITIONS TO OUR PRAYER CHAIN CALL LEA ROSIER AT (903) 729-1879 or (903) 391-5678

Note: The Letters in parentheses after the Hymn number indicate hymns selected because of direct connection to the Propers (i.e., Scripture Readings) for the day ... OT=Old Testament, FR=First Reading, SR= Second Reading , Ps=Psalm; V=Verse; E=Epistle, G=Gospel. Hymns with no such indication are hymns that, while having no direct connection to the Propers, still support the theme of the day.

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Sunday School: 9:00 AM
Adult Bible Class: 9:00 AM
Divine Service: 10:15 AM

“To Give Light to Those who Sit in Darkness”

